

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending herein.

I. Comments on Statement of Reasons of Allowance.

On page 3 of the Notice of Allowability, the USPTO respectfully states:

“The prior art of record does not teach or suggest a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising: forming an *interface* layer, forming a diffusion suppressing layer, forming a high dielectric *contact* insulating film, wherein the diffusion suppressing layer comprises nitrogen and a high-k metal element different from a metal constitutional element of the high dielectric constant insulating film, as claimed in independent claims 4 and 5.” (*emphasis added*)

However, Applicants respectfully believe that the emphasized portions are typographical errors and should be corrected as follows in accordance with the text of claim 4:

“The prior art of record does not teach or suggest a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising: forming an ~~interface~~ initial layer, forming a diffusion suppressing layer, performing heat treatment, forming a high dielectric ~~contact~~ constant insulating film, wherein the diffusion suppressing layer comprises nitrogen and a high-k metal element different from a metal constitutional element of the high dielectric constant insulating film, as claimed in independent claims 4 and 5.”

Additionally, Applicants respectfully assert that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising: forming an initial layer, forming a diffusion suppressing layer, forming a high dielectric constant insulating film, performing heat treatment, wherein the diffusion suppressing layer comprises nitrogen and a high-k metal element different from a metal constitutional element of the high dielectric constant insulating film, as claimed in independent claims 4 and 5.

II. Conclusion.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Please contact the undersigned for any reason. Applicants seek to cooperate with the Examiner including via telephone if convenient for the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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